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Message Text

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61
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W
---------- 031294
R 211450Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7338
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2455

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SY
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH POLISH AMBASSADOR

1. IN DISCUSSING LOCAL REACTION TO SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, POLISH AMBASSADOR BOZYM COMMENTED APRIL 21 THAT HE HAD WHAT HE TERMED "SOLID" REPORTS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF RECENT ARRESTS WHICH INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE BAATH PARTY. IN HIS OPINION THESE ARRESTS WERE LARGELY PREVENTIVE. HE HAD NO INDICATION OF ANY ORGANIZED RESISTANCE EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE BAATH PARTY TO ASAD'S POLICY IN LEBANON.

2. BOZYM CONSIDERS THAT THE BAATH PARTY HAS IN RECENT WEEKS MOVED TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION WITHIN THE COUNTRY. HE NOTE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT HAD BEEN PRESSED INTO SERVICE TO APPEAR AT TWO RECENT PUBLIC RALLIES. THE FIRST OCCASION WAS AT THE YOUTH CONFERENCE ON APRIL 7, WHICH NASSERIST LEADER KAYYALI ADDRESSED (DAMASCUS 2164), AND MORE RECENTLY AT LAST SATURDAY,S SPECIAL RALLY COMMEMORATING EVACUATION DAY. WHILE CPS LEADER KHALID BAGHDASH DID NOT ATTEND, ON BOTH OCCASIONS HE WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS DEPUTY YUSIF FAISAL.

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3. BOZYM'S APPRAISAL OF SYRIAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS LEBANON IS THAT

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IT CONTINUES OVERALL PRUDENT. HOWEVER, HE FEELS THAT THE LEADER-SHIP IS SENSING MOUNTING FRUSTRATION OVER THE INTRACTABILITY OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION. THUS, WHILE HE CONSIDERS THIS REGIME IS IN NO SENSE "ADVENTUROUS," HE CONCLUDED THAT THE SITUATION STIL PRESENTED DANGEROUS TEMPTATIONS FOR SYRIAN LEADERSHIP TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS BY FURTHER MILITARY INTERVENTION.

4. COMMENT: BOZYM HAS SERVED FOUR YEARS IN DAMASCUS AND WHILE HIS SOURCES ARE LIMITED, HE DOES HAVE SOME REGULAR CONTACTS IN THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMMANDS OF THE BAATH PARTY. HE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST OPEN OF OUR EASTER EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES IN SHARING HIS INSIGHTS.
MURPHY

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